

# Youth Transition Demonstration (YTD)



To further the President's New Freedom Initiative goal of increasing employment of individuals with disabilities, SSA awarded cooperative agreements in September 2003 to six States. The States developed service delivery systems to assist youth with disabilities to successfully transition from school, which may include post-secondary education, to employment and economic self-sufficiency. The States established partnerships to improve employment outcomes for youth ages 14-25 who receive SSI or SSDI payments on the basis of their own disability. The projects provide a broad array of transition-related services and supports to SSI and SSDI applicants and children.

## What States are involved?

Six States are participating in the demonstration:

California	Maryland
Colorado	Mississippi
Iowa	New York

## How does it work?

The project sites are developing service delivery systems that demonstrate how communities can integrate services and resources to achieve positive transition results including both post-secondary education and employment. A contract to provide technical assistance to the projects was awarded to Virginia Commonwealth University in September 2004. A national evaluation contract was awarded to Mathematica Policy Research in September 2005.

All sites met in Baltimore for an annual meeting in June 2005 and for a conference in September 2005 to discuss the progress and implementation of the YTD programs to date. The first meeting of 2006 will be in March.

## SSA's Expectations

The YTD is generating empirical evidence, based on both process and random-assignment evaluations, on the impacts of SSI waivers and enhanced coordination of services for youth with disabilities. Under this project, SSA is testing the effectiveness of altering certain SSI rules as an incentive to encourage beneficiaries to initiate work or increase their work activity and to increase their earnings.

## For More Information

If you have questions about the Youth Transition Demonstration, please contact us at [ssa.demonstrations@ssa.gov](mailto:ssa.demonstrations@ssa.gov)

